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authentic cases of human tuberculosis from this source.

A special effort is made throughout this book to present the evil effects of the use of alcohol and tobacco. This is legitimate and worthy, but one can not help asking if it is not overdone. Young people are not stupid. It is not wise to place extreme statements before them. They are very likely to discover that some of the most successful men in every branch of life smoke or drink more or less. They may find the practise in their own deservingly respected parents. They are likely to ask if the fishes on pages 72 and 111, which died in twenty-five minutes from the poison soaked out of tobacco placed in their aquaria would not have died just as quickly if tea leaves or coffee grounds or boiled cauliflower, onions or table olives had been substituted for the tobacco; or if any other smoke passed through the aquarium of the fish on page 168 would not have been as disastrous as the tobacco smoke which took that fish's life. These experiments should be checked up with controls. There are enough indisputable facts pointing to the evil effects of alcohol and tobacco to furnish sufficient argument against their unwise use.

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Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum. Volume VII., 1908; Volume VIII., 1909. By Sir GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart.

The present volumes deal with part of the subfamily Acronyctinæ of the family Noctuidæ. This subfamily will be treated in three volumes, of which these are the first and second. Volume VII. comprises 843 species in 96 genera, Volume VIII., 720 species in 104 genera. The key to the genera of the Acronyctinæ given in Volume VII. is reprinted in Volume VIII. with some additions and corrections and with the references to pages added. A large number of the genera are new, and their appearance in print without citation of species under them is rather unfortunate, as the proper citation of species will not occur until Volume IX. appears. In the meantime, students using the

tables are liable to make use of these names. As we understand the rules, such use would appropriate the authorship of the generic names, and we have ourselves avoided using them on several occasions. Sir George Hampson follows the general plan of the preceding volumes, so useful and well received by the entomological public. It goes without saying that the majority of our familiar names are changed. But this is something that we have learned to expect and is, indeed, quite unavoidable, as never before have the moths of the world been consistently classified by an author so capable in the subject and so well supplied with material. An incidental result of the continued appearance of these volumes is the enabling of the general student to determine North American noctuids independently. Heretofore, there have existed no general tables of genera and species anywhere nearly up to date, so that it has been practically necessary for the last thirty years to refer doubtful specimens to a single student who has made this field his own. The relief now being afforded from this condition is gratifying.

HARRISON G. DYAR

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. VII., No. 1, issued December 21, contains the following: "The Iodine Complex in Sponges (3,5-Diiodotyrosine)," by Henry L. Wheeler and Lafayette B. Mendel. Decomposition of ordinary bath sponges by barium hydrate yields 3,5-diiodotyrosine (iodogorgoric acid). "On the Preparation and Properties of Iodomucoids," by Gustave M. Meyer. Treatment of tendomucoid with iodine in alkaline solution produces iodo-mucoids, containing about 14 per cent. of organic iodine. "Lactic Acid in the Autolyzed Dog's Liver," by Tadasu Saiki. The lactic acid formed in liver autolysis is largely sarcocollactic acid. "Liquid Extraction with the Aid of Soxhlet's Apparatus," by Tadasu Saiki. An adaptation of the usual form of Soxhlet's apparatus for extraction of liquids. "A Study of the Chemistry of Cancer: II., Purin Bases, Creatin and Creatinin," by Tadasu Saiki. Analyses of

fresh carcinomata. "A Note on the Estimation of Purin Nitrogen in Urine," by Stanley R. Benedict and Tadasu Saiki. Preliminary addition of acetic acid to urine makes the Krüger-Schmid method more accurate. "On the Neutrality Equilibrium in Blood and Protoplasm," by Lawrence J. Henderson. An answer to Robertson (*Journ. Biol. Chem.*, VI., p. 313, 1909). "Observations on the Influence of Lactic Acid Ferments upon Intestinal Putrefaction in a Healthy Individual," by Helen Baldwin. Addition of lactobacilline, bacillac or zoolak to diet did not diminish urinary evidence of intestinal putrefaction. "The Catalytic Action of Amino-acids, Peptones and Proteins in Effecting Certain Syntheses," by H. D. Dakin. Condensation (*in vitro*) of furfural and malonic acid to furfuralacrylic acid may be accomplished by the catalytic action of glycocholic acid. A number of similar reactions are described. "Note on the Urorosein Reaction," by H. D. Dakin. Criticism of work of Ciusa and Terni. "Notes on the Action of Sodium Benzoate on the Multiplication and Gas Production of Various Bacteria," by C. A. Herter. Sodium benzoate in a concentration of 0.1 per cent. only slightly or moderately inhibits intestinal bacteria. Gas-production may be considerably diminished. Inhibition of the *B. coli* group is greater than that of coccal forms.

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

THE sixteenth annual meeting of the society was held at Boston on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 28-30, 1909, in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Tuesday afternoon was devoted to a joint session with Sections A and B of the association. A joint session was held with Section A on Wednesday morning, the program consisting of Professor Keyser's vice-presidential address "On the Thesis of Modern Logistic," a report by Professor D. E. Smith on "The Work of the International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics," and the first two papers in the list below. Separate sessions of the society were held on Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday morning and afternoon. On Tuesday evening several members took advantage of an invitation to attend the dinner and smoker of the Association of Math-

ematics Teachers in New England. The annual dinner of the society took place on Wednesday evening, forty-seven members gathering for this agreeable occasion. Much credit for the success of the meeting must be given to the local committee on arrangements, Professors Tyler, Bartlett and Bouton.

The total attendance at the annual meeting included sixty-one members of the society. Ex-president H. S. White and Professor E. W. Brown occupied the chair alternately during the several sessions. The following persons were elected to membership: Professor R. M. Barton, Dartmouth College; Dr. J. R. Conner, Johns Hopkins University; Miss Eva M. Smith, London, England. Nine applications for membership were received.

The reports of the treasurer, auditing committee and librarian will be published in the Annual Register, now in press. The membership of the society has increased during the past year from 601 to 618, including at present 58 life members. The number of papers presented at all meetings during the year was 149. The total attendance of members at the meetings was 311. The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$8,003.78, of which \$3,581.70 is credited to the life-membership fund. Sales of the society's publications during the year amounted to \$1,748.90. The library has increased to nearly 3,300 volumes. A separate catalogue of the library, corrected to January 1, 1910, will soon be issued.

At the annual election, which closed on Thursday morning, the following officers and other members of the council were chosen:

Vice-Presidents—L. E. Dickson, J. I. Hutchinson.

Secretary—F. N. Cole.

Treasurer—J. H. Tanner.

Librarian—D. E. Smith.

Committee of Publication—F. N. Cole, E. W. Brown, Virgil Snyder.

Members of the Council (to serve until December, 1912)—D. R. Curtiss, L. P. Eisenhart, J. C. Fields, P. F. Smith.

The following papers were read at this meeting:

F. L. Griffin: "Certain tests comparing areas and other geometrical magnitudes."

G. A. Miller: "Groups generated by two operators s_1, s_2 satisfying the equation $s_1 s_2^2 = s_2 s_1^2$."

H. M. Sheffer: "Total determinations of deductive systems with special reference to the algebra of logic."

R. G. D. Richardson: "The Jacobi criterion in